

**2011 Legislative Priorities
Agenda Item #10a**

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Approved by: David Dicks

Presented by: Michael Grayum, Director of Public Affairs, and panelists from other lead agencies.

PROPOSED ACTION Briefing and Decision

SUMMARY

The Puget Sound Partnership is collaborating with other lead agencies to develop legislative packages by September—consistent with the Governor’s process.

The Puget Sound Partnership has three top policy priorities for the 2011 legislative session:

- Funding for Action Agenda implementation, including storm water pollution;
- Improving shoreline protection;
- Increasing funding and necessary protections for oil spill prevention and response.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide background information related to these policy priorities, the process to develop recommendations, the stakeholder organizations and other governmental entities we are working with, and the outcomes we hope to achieve.

BACKGROUND

At the March 2010 Leadership Council meeting, the Council adopted an integrated process to advance legislative priorities. The process specifies the Leadership Council will review a summary of policy issues in the Action Agenda and make recommendations for the legislative session.

At the June 2010 Leadership Council meeting, the Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership presented the Leadership Council, highlights of the legislative issues we are working to advance. The Council requested a follow-up briefing on the issues the Puget Sound Partnership will be leading or co-leading.

PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS

Designated policy leads and the Director of Public Affairs reviewed potential policy priorities and recommended the agency take a leadership role on the three aforementioned priorities. The Puget Sound Partnership staff identified 2011 legislative priorities based on near-term actions in the Action Agenda, a review of issues remaining from the 2009 and 2010 legislative

sessions, Ecosystem Coordination Board recommendations, and feedback from stakeholder organizations and other governmental entities.

The Puget Sound Partnership will submit a formal policy proposal to the Governor in September. We plan to inform the Leadership Council on the details of our submittal, as well as those from other state agencies, at the September Council meeting. We will also inform the Leadership Council of the policy priorities the Governor decides to advance. The Governor will make her decision as early as November.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Leadership Council support the proposed desired outcomes for the 2011 legislative session on page 3—understanding the Puget Sound Partnership will collaborate with other state agencies, tribal governments, local governments, and stakeholders, as well as the Ecosystem Coordination Board and Science Panel, as we operate within the Governor’s timeframe and process.

Issues	Desired Outcomes
Funding to Implement the Action Agenda, including storm water	Enact legislation to establish a sustainable funding mechanism(s) to implement the Action Agenda, including but not limited to funding for projects, permitting, and monitoring related to storm water pollution in Puget Sound and throughout Washington State. Co-Leads: Puget Sound Partnership and Dept. of Ecology
Strengthen Shoreline Protection	Enact legislation to strengthen shoreline protection and incentivize the utilization of soft armoring techniques for new and repaired bulkheads—working to ensure property owners can achieve necessary protections using more environmentally beneficial techniques. Co-Leads: Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Dept. of Ecology, and Ecosystem Coordination Shoreline Work Group
Oil Spill Prevention and Response	Enact legislation to restore and provide adequate funding for the Dept. of Ecology and Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Oil Spill Programs. Ensure oil spill and storm water funding initiatives are well coordinated. Advance policy proposals following a review of lessons learned from the Gulf oil spill. Co-Leads: Dept. of Ecology and Cross Partnership Workgroup on Oil Spill Prevention and Response

ATTACHMENTS

Background information on shoreline and oil spill issues.